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1981/06/00

SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

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-- INDIA VIEWS THE PROSPECTIVE STRENGTHENING OF U.S.-PAKISTAN SECURITY RELATIONS AS A CHALLENGE TO IMPORTANT INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. WE HAVE TRIED TO ALLAY THESE INDIAN CONCERNS, AND TO MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE INDIANS.

-- WE HAVE TOLD THE INDIANS THAT WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND THAT STRONGER U.S.-PAKISTAN TIES ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEM. WE HAVE THESE TIES IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONCERN WITH THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE PERSIAN GULF/SOUTH-WEST ASIA REGION.

-- DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, THE INDIANS CONTINUE TO BE CRITICAL. SO FAR, THEIR NEGATIVE REACTION HAS BEEN CONFINED TO RHETORIC, PROBABLY THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR.

-- AN IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE WAY INDIA VIEWS ITS SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MODERATING INDIAN REACTION TO U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS. IT COULD ALSO OVER TIME CONTRIBUTE TO A LESSENING OF INDIAN DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ABET INDIAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET OBJECTIVES SPARKED BY THE AFGHANISTAN INVASION.

-- WE WELCOME FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA'S VISIT TO INDIA. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE USEFUL BOTH FOR WHAT IT CAN ACCOMPLISH IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FOR ITS SYMBOLIC VALUE. IT COULD ALSO PROVIDE AN OCCASION FOR CHINA TO REITERATE ITS INTEREST IN SUBCONTINENTAL STABILITY AND IMPROVED INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR *TS*

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